

September 9, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Chairman Powell:

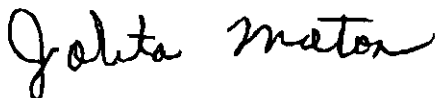
The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The African-American community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 70% of African American households have used them. Indeed, half of U.S. households with income below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

Many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling card consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

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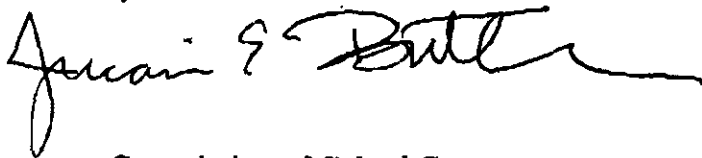
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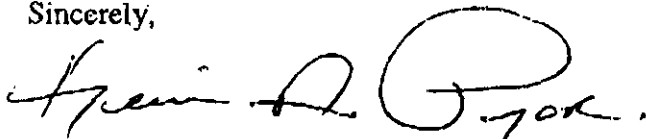
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As a result, prepaid calling cards often are the only option available – without them, some consumers would, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing new charges and fees would amount to a substantial increase in the per-minute cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to many consumers in our community. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges for calling cards they don't even sell only serves to drive up prices and make these services substantially less affordable.

Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

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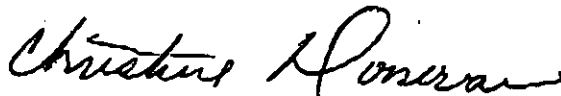
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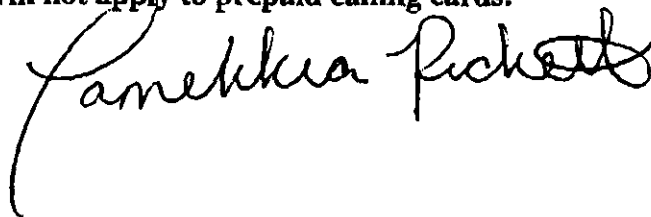
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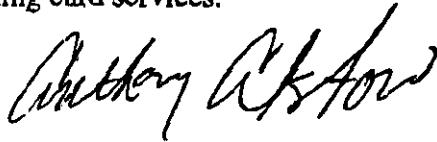
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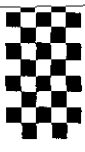
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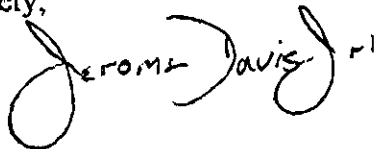
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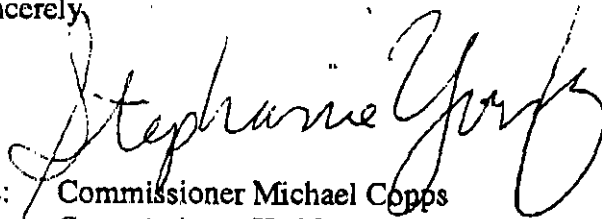
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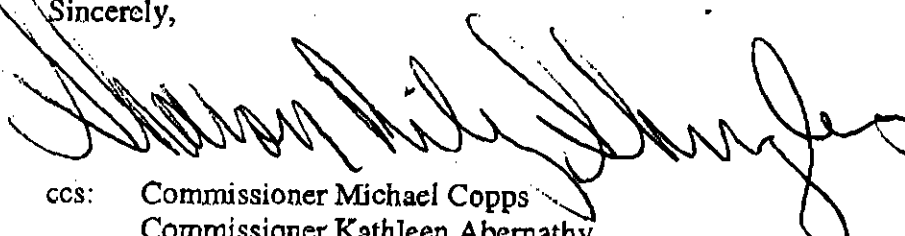
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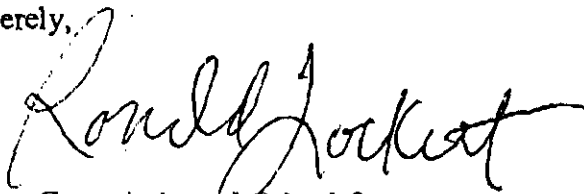
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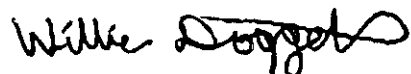
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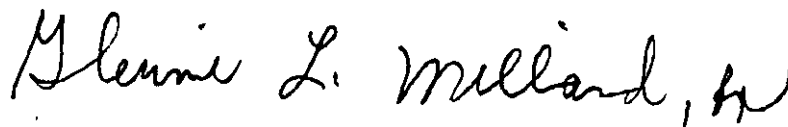
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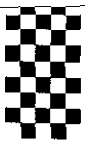
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Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein



September 9, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling card consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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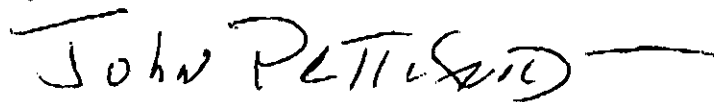
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pettus", followed by a horizontal line.

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Chairman Powell:

The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The African-American community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 70% of African American households have used them. Indeed, half of U.S. households with income below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

Many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,



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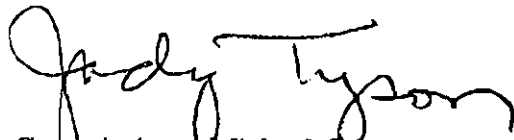
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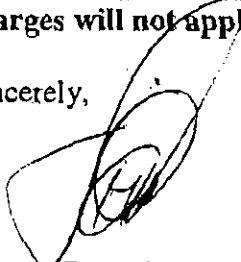
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Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin



## MILLERICK FINANCIAL SERVICES

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July 20, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Powell :

As the owner of a small business, I have often found that most effective way to organize some of my telephone expenses is by utilizing pre-paid calling cards. I look for the most affordable rate, then can monitor the usage on my card.

It is a convenient and organized way to track my expenses. For this reason, I was very concerned to hear that there is an attempt by the Bell Companies to add hidden fees to this service. I have also heard that their proposal could add charges that are 20 times higher then the current charges.

Their argument that these calls should be considered in-state calls is just ridiculous. If other calling card users are like me, a majority of the calls placed using the cards are long distance.

This is obvious just an attempt to charge telephone users more money. Please ensure that we continue to be charged fairly and competition is allowed to flourish.

Regards,

Shawn Millerick  
President



# FLORIDA COMPETITIVE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

VIA FACSIMILE

July 23, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Pre-paid calling card docket (Docket 03-133)

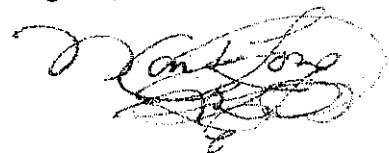
The Florida Competitive Carriers Association (FCCA) is deeply concerned over BellSouth's and Verizon's position in this docket to assess intrastate access charges on prepaid calling card enhanced services. We believe this position to be both contrary to past FCC policies and counter to the long efforts by the FCC and states to bring intrastate and interstate access charges to parity.

BellSouth's and Verizon's position appears contrary to the FCC's long-standing policy that enhanced services are interstate in nature. Attempting to apply intrastate access charges on calls that clearly meet the FCC's definition of an interstate enhanced service flies in the face of this policy.

Additionally, BellSouth's and Verizon's desires in this docket countermand the FCC's and state commissions' continued efforts to end the disparity between interstate and intrastate access charges. Attempting to assess intrastate access on yet another service does not further this goal, but rather helps perpetuate this inequality. Because of this discrepancy, here is yet another attempt to arbitrage these rates to BellSouth's and Verizon's financial advantage.

For these reasons, the FCCA urges the FCC to reject BellSouth's and Verizon's position in this docket.

Regards,



Mark Long  
Executive Director